Abstracts for Idaho Noxious Weed Conference
January 14-15, 2026
The Riverside Hotel, Boise, ID

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

8:30 – 9:00 AM Opening Remarks
Executive Director Patxi Larrocea-Phillips

9:00 – 9:50 AM Glyphosate - Current Status & Future Prospects in Light of Litigation Challenges
George Geough (Director, Bayer U.S. – Crop Science)
Discussion on the history of Round Up™ branded glyphosate; the challenges brought about from litigation; the activities underway to contain the litigation risks; and the future of the product. The presentation will also delve into how and why the litigation has implications beyond Round Up™ with potential impacts to other crop protection chemistries.

9:55 – 10:45 AM Biological Control of Weeds – Idaho Research Update
Mark Schwarzlander (Professor of Entomology, University of Idaho)
In this presentation, we will share results from our analysis of 299 western weed species to prioritize them for classical biological control based on verifiable data. We will summarize findings from our citizen-science impact assessments of the spotted knapweed root-mining biocontrol agents Agapeta zoegana and Cyphocleonus achates, as well as the stem-mining weevil Mecinus janthiniformis introduced for the control of Dalmatian toadflax. We will also provide updates on ongoing biological control research for numerous candidate species and report on the status of regulatory release decisions for new biocontrol agents of houndstongue, hoary cress, perennial pepperweed, yellow starthistle, common crupina, and rush skeletonweed. Finally, I will conclude with an outlook on the future of biological weed control in the western United States.

10:45 – 11:10 PM *Networking Break – Visit our Vendors*

11:10 – 12:00 PM Results of 8 years of Aerial Herbicide Application in East Central Idaho & an Unintended Outcome
Diane Schuldt (Botany, Invasive Species, Pollinators, and Native Plant Materials Program Manager, USDA Forest Service)
This session will provide an update on the results of eight years' worth of aerial herbicide application to control cheatgrass in east central Idaho. Discussion includes a review of equipment used, active ingredients, and application methods. This has proven very effective in controlling cheatgrass on our landscapes with little non-target effects to native forbs and grasses. A rate change in an application made in early October 2024 followed by a drought year led to an unintended outcome.

12:00 – 1:30 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:40 – 2:30 PM Is this Herbicide Damage or Something Else?

John Franson (Territory Sales Manager, Wilbur Ellis)

When a pesticide complaint is received, the immediate assumption is often herbicide injury. However, in many cases the true cause of plant decline is unrelated to chemical exposure. This presentation will walk participants through the critical steps of diagnosing damage to desirable vegetation, emphasizing how to distinguish biotic factors (insects, diseases, pathogens) from abiotic factors (environmental, cultural, and mechanical stresses).

2:30 – 3:00 PM ***Networking Break -- Visit our Vendors***

3:00 – 3:50 PM Preventing Chemical Accidents and What to Do if it Occurs

James Wotring (Safety and Compliance Officer, Idaho Transportation Department)

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) manages vegetation operations across six districts, maintaining thousands of lane miles and supporting specialized programs such as avalanche mitigation. This presentation will provide an overview of ITD's vegetation management responsibilities, the chemicals commonly used, and the reasons behind their selection. It will also explain ITD's role when chemical spills occur, both within ITD operations and on Idaho roadways involving the public. The presentation will outline the steps taken during a spill event, including required notification to the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), how responsibility is determined, and how information flows through State Comm. Attendees will learn what questions State Comm typically asks, how ITD coordinates with other responding agencies, and the practical approaches ITD uses to ensure safe, timely, and compliant handling of chemical events.

Thursday, January 14, 2026

Concurrent classes will take place with the following tracks:
Track 1: Technology Emphasis
Track 2: Application Strategies, Methods & Safety

Track 1: Technology Emphasis

8:00 – 8:50 AM Controlling unwanted Vegetation in Non-Crop/Bareground, Range and Pasture Landscapes with Non-traditional Herbicides

Jeffrey Pettingill (Mountain West Territory Manager, Alligare)

Jeffrey will discuss how to control unwanted weeds in Range and Pasture areas with non-traditional herbicides and tank mixes. Discussion will include weed identification, integrated pest management, and pesticide safety. Identifying the proper invader will lead into proper herbicide and adjuvant selection, proper pesticide rates and timing as well as how to make sure your sprayers are calibrated to ensure best weed control. He will discuss how to ensure that the pesticide label is followed and interpreted.

8:55 – 9:45 AM Moveo Formulation Technology

Brian Hodges (Product Manager, Helena)

This presentation examines the chemistry and performance of 2,4-D auxin herbicide formulations, comparing ester and amine salt forms. Key benefits and limitations related to efficacy, volatility, solubility, odor, and compatibility are discussed. The presentation introduces MOVEO® technology as an advancement that improves formulation stability and application flexibility while addressing many traditional challenges of 2,4-D formulations.

9:45 – 10:00 AM ***Networking Break -- Visit our Vendors***

10:00 – 10:50 AM Nufarm Weedar XHL & Weedmaster XHL Introduction and IVM Products for Controlling Invasives

Jon Storr (Territory Manager, Nufarm)

I will introduce two new products formulations featuring XHL technology. I will discuss the advantages of the Xtra High Load formulations and how they will save time, space and money when utilizing these products. I will show the results of university studies showing volatility, and efficacy of these products. Finally, we will examine test plots and field trials showing tank mixing to control resistant kochia, field bindweed, brush, equisetum and Russian thistle.

10:55 – 11:45 AM Improving Spraying Efficacy

Don Frantz (Branded Products Territory Representative, Wilbur-Ellis)

I will enthusiastically cover all topics with an upbeat, fresh presentation that conveys my passion for the industry, while having an information dense talk. The active ingredient portion of the talk will include new EPA-registered offerings. The highest active ingredient phosphite fungicide, and the role phosphites play in an IPM strategy. Understanding the overall concept of plant hormones and how peptides and harpin proteins can trigger the SAR response in plant material, including the plant processes that aid in plant protection. Will also discuss the importance and understanding of label instructions. Ways to enhance spraying efficacy and applicator safety. Defining spray drift and cultural methods to improve drift risk. Defining the main categories of Adjuvants, and how to properly utilize them in a program. How Adjuvants aid in the application of pesticides, and how each family improves the physical properties of spraying. Options to improve the water quality of our pesticide spray mixes.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 – 1:50 PM Adjuvant Use Efficiency: How To Get The Most Out of Our Chemistries

Josh Williams (Loveland Sales Manager, Nutrien Ag Solutions)

Improving pesticide efficiency is essential for reducing application costs and minimizing environmental impacts in modern crop protection. Adjuvants—substances added to pesticide formulations to enhance performance—are increasingly used to optimize spray retention, droplet spread, and active ingredient penetration. This presentation covers the use and effects of commonly used adjuvant classes, including surfactants, oils, and drift-reducing agents, on the efficacy of pesticides. This discussion also covers how water quality plays an important role in pesticide efficacy.

1:55 – 2:45 PM Tools for controlling Russian Thistle, Kochia, Puncturevine, and Marestail in Bareground

Tanner Smith (Eastern Regional Territory Manager, Corteva Agriscience)

Controlling tough annual weeds—such as Russian thistle, kochia, marestail, and puncturevine—on bareground and Total Vegetation Control (TVC) sites is critical for operational safety, infrastructure integrity, and regulatory compliance. Corteva Agriscience delivers innovative solutions with Piper® EZ and HighNoon® herbicides, offering new standards in efficacy, flexibility, and stewardship. The tank mix of PiperEZ (flumioxazin + pyroxasulfone) and HighNoon (aminopyralid + Rinskor® active) provides three distinct modes of action, delivering broad-spectrum pre- and early post-emergence control of over 140 weeds—including resistant biotypes of Russian thistle, kochia, and marestail.
This combination is ideal for non-crop areas such as industrial sites, utility rights-of-way, railroads, oil and gas pads, and more. It offers flexible use rates and tank-mix compatibility for operational efficiency.

Track 2: Application Strategies, Methods & Safety

8:00 – 8:50 AM IR-4 Updates and Pesticide Chemistries

Marcelo Dimase (Assistant Professor of Entomology, Ada County Weed, University of Idaho)

This presentation will cover the major pesticide chemistries, development of pesticide resistance, and updates on recent projects completed with the IR-4 Project, as well as future projects for 2026.

8:55 – 9:45 AM NutraFix Micronutrient Fertilizer for Improved Soil Health and Shifting Weedy Plant Communities to Perennial Plant Dominance

Stuart Jennings (President and Founder, NutraFix)

Soil characteristics and soil health play an important role in the invasibility and persistence of weed dominated plant communities. Depleted soils often exhibit accentuated cover of weeds and reduced cover of desirable perennial vegetation. Nitrogen fertilization is known to increase weed cover, but novel micronutrient fertilization strategies show promise for long-term plant community shifts toward perennial species without or in combination with herbicides.

9:45 – 10:00 AM *Networking Break -- Visit our Vendors*

10:00 – 10:50 AM Integrated Management of Rush Skeletonweed in Idaho

Dr. Tim Prather (Professor, University of Idaho)

Rush skeletonweed continues to expand across Idaho. Impacts from rush skeletonweed include decreased forage resources for many grazing animals including cattle and winter grazing areas for mule deer and elk are also affected. Sheep and goats are less affected, during the growing season they readily will eat rush skeletonweed. Rush skeletonweed disperses long distance up to 7 - 12 miles via seed and short distances from an extensive rhizome system. This invasive plant species resists a single method of control but can be reduced through integrated control strategies. Herbicides products that contain aminopyralid, clopyralid, fluroxypyr, florpyrauxifen or dicamba can control rush skeletonweed for 1 to 2 seasons. However, control is short-lived without other methods. Modifying management in many areas to increase herbaceous perennial plants to over 18% plant cover can relegate rush skeletonweed to sustained low plant cover. When biological control agents are present, those reduced levels of rush skeletonweed can be sustained.

10:55 – 11:45 AM Building a Game Plan

Dave Collins (Area Sales Manager, Envu)

Residual herbicides have been part of our weed control programs for years, bringing us extended weed control and the benefits associated with their varied half-life. Safety, aesthetics, and improving natural habitats are a few of the reasons why vegetation management is so important to our ecosystem. However, the repetitive single use of these active ingredients can come at a cost. Are we still getting the same weed control with our old game plans? In this presentation we'll look at commonly used herbicides that we're usings for the control of challenging species and answer that question. After which, we'll look at what "trades" can be made to improve our weed control "team." Additionally, we'll look at the newer focus of not only controlling standing vegetation but also managing the" weed seed bank" for the long-term control of invasive weeds and grasses. This presentation will also discuss some of our greatest challenges within vegetation management. These can include factors that are out of our control such as weather and the lack of innovation, but also what we can do to help prevent issues such as weed resistance. We will improve our understanding of the latest products available such as Rejuvra and Esplanade (Indaziflam) and the residual benefits they can bring, as well as Portfolio

(Sulfentrazone) and Altify (Carfentrazone) and what game plan they should be a part of. Lastly, we will discuss best practices from timing to tank mixing, and how we can efficiently execute our game plan while effectively utilizing the team we've built.

11:45 AM – 1:00 PM LUNCH BREAK

1:00 – 1:50 PM ISDA Noxious Weed Rules & Pesticide Rule Update

Jeremey Varley (Chief Treatment Engineer, Idaho State Department of Agriculture)
Brian Slabaugh (Division Administrator, Idaho State Department of Agriculture)

During 2025 a few new weeds were discovered in Idaho. This presentation will go over these species and their basic biology. These species have not yet been petitioned to add to the rule. In this presentation we will go over the rules process as well as how petitions are to be submitted and the steps to add or remove species from this list.

1:55 – 2:45 PM Idaho Weed Quiz

Dr. Tim Prather (Professor, University of Idaho)
Danielle Gunn (Professor & Extension Educator University of Idaho)

Effective weed management begins with the ability to correctly identify species of concern, yet experienced land managers face challenges distinguishing Idaho's diverse and evolving list of noxious weeds. Foundational concepts in plant ecology—such as trait-based recognition, competitive strategies, and habitat associations—can be used as practical tools that improve early detection and rapid response efforts. This presentation introduces an interactive Idaho weed quiz designed for weed superintendents, land managers, producers, educators, and conference participants to strengthen diagnostic skills through visual cues, comparative features, and scenario-based questions. Developed in alignment with the Idaho State Department of Agriculture's noxious weed list, the quiz highlights key distinguishing characteristics among high-priority species, including look-alikes that commonly lead to misidentification in the field. By integrating ecological principles with applied learning, this tool promotes consistent, accurate identification and supports statewide efforts to prevent establishment, reduce spread, and enhance coordinated weed management across Idaho's rangelands, forests, and agricultural systems.